

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An extension pole arrangement comprising:  
an extension pole segment including  
a longitudinally extending tube of a given diameter having a first hollow open cylindrical end portion;  
a reduced length hollow cylindrical second end portion expanded to have a tube having a larger external and internal diameter beginning; than the outside diameter of said first end portion, said second end portion having an opening matingly configured for receiving a tube with configuration substantially identical to said first end portion; and  
said larger external beginning having an opening in an exterior surface thereof;  
wherein the open end of said first end portion includes protective means inserted therein.
2. (currently amended) ~~the same tube having a smaller external end;~~ The extension pole arrangement of claim 1 wherein  
said first end portion includes an aperture proximate the end thereof through which a depressible locking mechanism protrudes and said second end portion has an aperture for matingly receiving a locking mechanism substantially identical to said depressible locking mechanism;  
~~said smaller external diameter end having an opening in an exterior surface to position a locking mechanism;~~  
said [[a]] locking mechanism comprised of [[;]] a locking spring urged push button projecting from the said first end portion aperture. opening in the exterior surface;
3. (currently amended) ~~the said smaller external diameter end having a rubber insert;~~ The extension pole arrangement of claim 1 wherein said protective means is a resilient the said

~~rubber~~ insert is held in place by compression, ~~said compression~~; ~~the said rubber insert protruding~~  
~~protrudes~~ beyond the end of said first end portion, ~~the pole~~.

4. (new) The extension pole arrangement of claim 3 wherein multiple of said segments are sequentially connected telescopically by inserting said first end portion of a selected segment into said second end portion of another selected segment and locking the connected segments by means of coaction between said locking mechanism and said second end aperture.

5. (new) An extension pole arrangement comprising at least one pole segment, each pole segment being substantially identical and comprising:

first and second tube portions, said first portion of a given diameter and extending longitudinally from said second tube portion and terminating with an open end;

said second tube portion having an open end with an inside diameter greater than the outside diameter of said first tube portion configured for receiving the first tube portion of additional substantially identical pole segments;

said first tube portion including a locking mechanism configured for coaxing mating engagement with means in said second tube portion for receiving said locking means; and

whereby said substantially identical pole segments are conjoinable.

6. (new) The extension pole arrangement of claim 5 wherein said second tube portion is of substantially reduced length comparable to said first tube portion.

7. (new) The extension pole arrangement of claim 5 wherein the open end of said first tube portion includes protective means mounted thereto.

8. (new) The extension pole arrangement of claim 7 wherein said protective means is a resilient insert compressibly mounted into the open end of said first tube and protruding outward beyond said open end.